

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 20-38 are currently pending.. Claims 20, 31 and 35 and are hereby amended hereby amended without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents. These changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. ALLOWABLE CLAIMS

The Examiner has indicated that claims 21-30 and 32-34, and 36 are allowable, for which the Applicants thank the Examiner. The Examiner has also noted that claims 20-38 would be allowable if the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 are overcome, for which again the Applicants thank the Examiner. Accordingly, in view of the remarks below and amendments herein, Applicants respectfully urge that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

III. SPECIFICATION

The Office Action objects to paragraph [0004] of the specification for informalities, citing to references to claims 1, 8, 12, and 17, which are cancelled. Applicants respectfully note that the Substitute Specification attached to the Preliminary Amendment dated January 25, 2006 deleted the

references to claim numbers. Accordingly Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection

IV. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 35 is rejected as allegedly being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicant has amended the claim language to obviate the rejection.

Claims 20¹ and 31 were rejected as allegedly being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicant has amended the claim language to obviate the rejection.

Accordingly, Applicant requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejections of claims 20, 31, and 35, and 17.

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¹ Applicants note the Office Action initially rejects claim 21 at page 2 in setting for the basis of the rejection but refers to claim 20 in the explanation; Applicants understand that claim 20 was intended.

CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicant respectfully requests early passage to issue of the present application.

The Office is authorized to charge the deposit account of the Applicants attorneys any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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